

in the area and, in fact, around the world. American troops have become even bigger targets. What about the American humanitarian organizations and their personnel abroad, American students, and American tourists? They are all at greater risk as a result of the action taken.

Secretary Pompeo's call today for de-escalation after the assassination is a pipe dream. What we do know—and no one should be surprised—is that Iran has stated that the assassination of the general is tantamount to a declaration of war and they will strike back at a place and time of their choosing. We know with certainty that a response will come and that Iran and its allies have the ability to act against Americans and American interests across the region.

Moreover, the assassination will likely lead to a decline in American influence in Iraq and, as a result, even greater Iranian power and influence in that country. Our ally, the Iraqi Government, has already stated that the attack on its soil violated its sovereignty. Prime Minister Mahdi called for an extraordinary session of the Iraqi Parliament to safeguard Iraq's sovereignty, calling the strike "a dangerous escalation that will light the fuse of a destructive war in Iraq, the region, and the world."

Iraq's President, Barham Salih, also condemned the strikes. Here is the Reuters' piece: "Iraq president condemns U.S. strike, urges restraint."

These are our allies in the Iraqi Government who are condemning these actions and saying that they will lead to a spiral toward war, and these statements came just days after the Iraqi Prime Minister and the President had made similar warnings about prior American actions in Iraq. This is already intensifying calls within Iraq to expel U.S. forces. Who do we think is going to fill the vacuum there? Iran. It already has enormous influence in Iraq, and now we are going to be giving it even more.

This administration, like the Bush administration, has never understood basic political geography. Iran is a large Shia country that borders Iraq. Iraq is also a majority Shia country. Ever since the United States invaded Iraq in 2003 and removed Saddam Hussein, Iran's influence in Iraq has steadily grown. The assassination may appear gratifying in the short term, for, as I said, he was a bad person who had a lot of blood on his hands, but it has likely ushered in the most volatile moment in the Middle East in a very, very long time.

The same group of warmongering, political ideologues who told Americans that the Iraq war would lead to democracy's breaking out in the Middle East is telling us today that the Iranians will be celebrating in the streets. The truth is that this action will likely usher in the most militant Parliament in Iran that we will have seen in decades. The door will be closed com-

pletely on the hard-won moment for trying to derail Iranian nuclear ambitions through negotiations.

In closing, this is a pivotal and dangerous moment for America as the result of reckless policies over the last 3 years. The President's action may become the spark that could trigger another war in the Middle East. Let us here in Congress make very clear that President Trump has no authority to take America to war against Iran. Our Constitution requires that Congress authorize any decision to go to war, and Congress has not given that authorization.

In the days and weeks ahead, I hope all of us will do our duty as Senators to look at the situation we find ourselves in at this moment, and I hope we will resolve to do what President Trump said he wanted to do while he was campaigning for President, which is to not plunge us into more wars in the Middle East but to find a way to use our influence and our power responsibly to stabilize the situation there.

I yield the floor.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5377. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on deduction of State and local taxes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5430. An act to implement the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada attached as an Annex to the Protocol Replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker reappoints effective January 1, 2020, the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2021: Ms.

Carolyn Bartholomew of Washington, DC.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 7002, the Minority Leader appoints the following member to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Mr. Michael Wessel of Falls Church, Virginia, as previously agreed, because of the change in Congress and the presumed statutory intent of the Commission, the Minority Leader appoints Mr. Wessel on behalf of the Speaker.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RASKIN) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1424. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure the Secretary of Veterans Affairs permits the display of Fallen Soldier Displays in national cemeteries.

H.R. 2385. An act to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. ROBERTS).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5377. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on deduction of State and local taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5430. An act to implement the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada attached as an Annex to the Protocol Replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement; referred jointly to the Committee on Finance; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Environment and Public Works; Appropriations; Foreign Relations; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Budget pursuant to section 151(e)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3148. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 20, 2019, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 151. An act to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S.J. Res. 63. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 933

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes.

S. 2794

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes.

S. 3068

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3068, a bill to modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

S. 3069

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3069, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to correct a land ownership error within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

S. 3104

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3104, a bill to make technical corrections relating to parental leave for Federal employees.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:18 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 6, 2020, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

ANDREW LYNN BRASHER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE EDWARD E. CARNES, RETIRING.

JOSHUA M. KINDRED, OF ALASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA, VICE RALPH R. BEISTLINE, RETIRED.

MATTHEW THOMAS SCHELP, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE STEPHEN N. LIMBAUGH, JR., RETIRING.

STEPHEN A. VADEN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, VICE DELISSA A. RIDGWAY, RETIRED.

NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE PRESIDENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2020

The following nominations transmitted by the President of the United States to the Senate during the first session of the 116th Congress, and upon which no action was had at the time of the sine die adjournment of the Senate, failed of confirmation under the provisions of Rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICK A. DEARBORN, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

JOSEPH RYAN GRUTERS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

LEON A. WESTMORELAND, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

THEODORE ROKITA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 3, 2021.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MICHAEL PACK, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

ANN MARIE BUERKLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2018.

ANN MARIE BUERKLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

VICTORIA ANN HUGHES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2021.

HEATHER REYNOLDS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2021.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

DON MUNCE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

LISA VICKERS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2021.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NAOMI C. EARP, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

SCOTT HUTCHINS, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WILLIAM BRYAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SHANNON LEE GOESSLING, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

VINCENT F. DEMARCO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

KENNETH CHARLES CANTERBURY, JR., OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES.

OWEN MCCURDY CYPHER, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

THOMAS L. LEONARD III, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PAMELA BATES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

MARSHALL BILLINGSLEA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS).

BRETT P. GIROIR, OF TEXAS, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

RONALD MORTENSEN, OF UTAH, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION).

LEANDRO RIZZUTO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BARBADOS, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERATION OF SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA, GRENADA, AND SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES.

CHRISTINE J. TORETTI, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA.

JOHN LINDER, OF GEORGIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

WILLIAM ELLISON GRAYSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA.

LEORA ROSENBERG LEVY, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

BARBERA HALE THORNHILL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

KATHARINE MACGREGOR, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

GEOFFREY WILLIAM SELJI OKAMOTO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

THELMA DRAKE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATOR.

DIANA FURCHTGOTT-ROTH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

FINCH FULTON, OF ALABAMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

KEITH E. SONDERLING, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2024.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

RODNEY K. BROWN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD, FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 13, 2024.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

JAMES E. TRAINOR III, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 30, 2023.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

JAMES P. DANLY, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2023.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

CATHERINE BIRD, OF TEXAS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICES

RICHARD GIACOLONE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION DIRECTOR.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

STEPHEN R. BOUGH, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2021.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

MARK ROSEN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

ALAN E. COBB, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2023.

WILLIAM SHAW MCDERMOTT, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2024.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

ROBERT JOSEPH KRUCKEMEYER, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.